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HEALTH
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BOROUGH OF BODMIN.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
Year ended 31st December, 1958.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:
J. REED, M.D.,Ch.B., B.Sc.,D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:
C.R. LAWLESS, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:
L.W.BLAKE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1958.

The Vital Statistics show a considerable fall in the number of notified births, from 82 in 1957 to 60 in 1958. The number of deaths occurring in Borough residents also fell from 58 to 39. The comparable rates both for births and deaths are considerably below the national rates. The incidence of notifiable infectious desease was small and no major outbreaks were recorded during the year. The increase in tuberculosis notifications was the result of a comprehensive search by the Mass Radiography Unit which visited the St. Lawrence's Hospital during the year. A total of eight fresh cases were found.

The town's water supply has shown consistently good results bacteriologically and the Water Company have undertaken certain works to improve the supply to higher levels and to extend their services. The Council have taken an active part in the negotiations for the formation of a Joint Water Board and are favourably disposed towards such a combination of water undertakings which would undoubtedly benefit the whole area concerned.

Housing progress has been very good. The redevelopment of the Downing Street area is a good example of the Council's earnest desire, even under difficult circumstances to produce the types of houses which the town requires to meet its needs. The clearance of this area, and the completion of the new road show what a large area in the central portion of the town exists which would be of further use and it is hoped that the Council may be permitted to develop these sites to their best advantage.

The Council have been aware for many years of the deteriorating state of the Scarletts Well Sewage works and the time is rapidly approaching when some practical steps will have to be taken to renew the present unsatisfactory disposal plant. Possible remedies are already being considered. Consulting Engineers have been employed to investigate the present needs, and the construction of new works to provide for the Westmeath Estate is also being pursued.

The general impression of 1958 is one of considerable activity and progress, not only in the Public Health aspects of the town, but in many others in which the Council are involved, and amidst all this activity I feel a little disappointed still to have to draw the Council's attention to the continued inadequate provision of proper dustbins. Apart from the all important public health aspects of this failure, the varied array of containers which is displayed along the main street each Tuesday morning creates a most unhappy impression.

I should like to express my thanks to the Council for their support during the year, and to Mr. Blake, and Mr. Spencely of the Water Company for certain items of information included in the report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED.

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report - Bodmin, 1958.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	3,312
Estimated Mid-Year Population	6,070
Rateable Value	£63,080
Product of Penny Rate	£245. 6. 0d.
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,578
Comparability Factors:	
Births	1.37
Deaths	0.28

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registered Live Births. 1958.

Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	29	30	59
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	30	30	60

Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 9.8
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales. = 16.4
Comparable Birth Rate = 13.4

Stillbirths.

Two stillbirths were registered, both legitimate females.

Deaths.

Infant Deaths.

Two infant deaths occurred, one of each sex, and both after the first month of life.

Registered Deaths. 1958. (Including St. Lawrence's Hospital.

Male.	Female.	Total.
68	86	154

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population = 25.3
Death Rate England & Wales per 1,000 population = 11.7.
Comparable death rate = 7.08

Deaths relating to Borough residents were 22 male and [illegible]emale a total of 39. Assuming the average number of patients in [illegible] Lawrence's Hospital to be approximately 1,500 the crude death rate [illegible]uld be 8.7 per 1,000 which I think is probably a more accurate [illegible]gure. The main causes of death were as follows:-

	Male.	Female.
Heart Diseases	10	5
Cerebro Vascular Disease	1	6
Respiratory Disease	4	1
Cancer	3	2
Accident or Suicide	2	2
All other causes	2	1
	22	17

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospital Services.

The East Cornwall Hospital situated in the town, and [illegible] Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, meet the general needs of the [illegible]orough, both for emergency and out-patient departments. Ante-natal [illegible] Gynaecological services are available at St. Austell and Redruth. [illegible]grading of wards and new building continues in the St. Lawrence's [illegible]pital, Bodmin. The general appearance is now much more in keeping [illegible] "Hospital" than "Institution".

The laboratory at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary [illegible]tinued to be used for public health purposes.

[illegible]nty Council Services.

(1) Ambulance Service. County Council owned vehicles manned [illegible] full-time staff during the day-time and voluntary staff by night and [illegible]eek-ends provided adequate cover during the year. The vehicles housed [illegible] various garages in the town will ultimately be contained in a central station in the town, together with the Radio-Control Centre for the [illegible] County.

(2) Mother and Child Welfare Services.

There were no changes in the provisions of these [illegible]rvices during the year. The combination of General Practitioner and [illegible]unty Council Midwife provides a good domiciliary midwirery service. [illegible] nurses conduct Mothercraft courses and attend the Infant Welfare [illegible]tre. 39 domiciliary confinements were undertaken during the year.

The Infant Welfare Centre was held twice each month during the year with an average attendance of 22.81 per session. Some changes may be made in the near future which will involve two additional sessions each month.

Home Help and Home Aid continue to be supplied through the agency of the W.V.S.

(3) School Health Services.

Routine and Special Medical examinations were carried out at the three town schools. The general physical state of pupils was satisfactory. Toilets at the Bodmin C.P. school have been converted from troughs to individual W.C.'s, but the improvement is perhaps the least which could have been hoped for.

(3) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Sewerage.

The disposal works at Dragon Pits functioned satisfactorily. The Council are taking steps to obtain improvement in the Scarlett's Well works, which have been recognised as overloaded for some years. Investigations have been conducted by Consulting Engineers, but final reports were not issued during the year. The amount of alteration to these works will depend on the decision to build new disposal works at Blowing House to take sewage from existing Council Estates and the developing Westheath Estate. Delay in arriving at a final agreement on the purchase of the necessary land is causing some anxiety about the deveopment of Westheath Estate, where private developers will be dependant upon the satisfactory completion of this scheme.

Water Supplies.

Following the result of the Public Enquiry in 1957, the Bodmin Water Company have undertaken certain improvements in the town's supply. These include at the Treatment Works (St. Breward) a gas chlorinator to replace the drip feed chlorinator, and a Lime Dry Feeder plant to reduce the acidity of the raw water. At the distribution side, progress has been made on the Boosting Scheme to improve supplies to the higher levels. A new 8" outlet had been made into the service reservoir and 910 yards of 6" and 150 yards of 4" mains have been laid from St. Nicholas Street to Barn Park. It is proposed to erect an electrically operated booster station near the Service reservoir during 1959.

Main extensions were made at Vivian Road, White Stone Road and Downing Street to supply new housing development. 220 yards of 6" main were renewed in Fore Street.

All samples taken during the year were found to be bacteriologically satisfactory.

Refuse Disposal.

The tip at Dragon Pits was satisfactorily maintained and gave rise to no complaint.

Rodent Control.

Periodic checks, and the small number of complaints suggest that the rat population is satisfactorily controlled.

Sanitary Inspections.

(a) Summary of Visits.

Council Properties	276
Private Houses	186
Food Premises	71
Slaughterhouses	232
Other Premises	383

(b) Notices Served.

Time and Place Notices	1
Demolition Orders	1
Informal Notices	4

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

The existing licence under this Act was again renewed, the premises being kept in a very satisfactory manner.

4. HOUSING.

Downing Street.

Good progress has been made in the clearance and re-development of this area, the Council having now acquired the majority of property and land. Nine more properties were acquired during the year and four more houses were demolished. Three remaining properties, the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order were due for enquiry in January, 1959. The report has not yet been received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Six one-bedroom flats were completed on this site and 14 houses were under construction. The Council's proposals to build two blocks of flats had not received Planning approval in 1958.

General Housing.

During the year the Council completed 5 one bedroom bungalows, 6 one bedroom flats and one bungalow with shop premises. Ten dwellings were completed by private enterprise. Eight individual houses were demolished. Two applications were made for improvement grants, both of which were refused.

A further eight applications were received under the Rent Act, 1957. The disposal of these together with three still under consideration in 957 is as follows:-

Certificates of Disrepair Issued	7
Owners undertaking accepted	2
Certificate of Disrepair cancelled	1
Under consideration	1

Moveable Dwellings.

The site licence to the Cooksland Caravan site was re-issued, and three single vans were issued with licences during the year. The central position of the Town and the Planning Department's desire to restrict caravan development along the coast suggest that a site in Bodmin of high standard would certainly flourish.

5. FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year the following food was voluntarily surrendered for condemnation:-

1513	Tins (Various)
73	Jars (Various)
2	Jars Beetroot.
1	Jar Pickles.
1	Jar Marmite.
36	Jars Welsh Rarebit.
4	Jars Buttered Cheese.
9	Bottles (Various)
4	Bottles Sauce.
1	Packet Stuffing.
1	Packet Bicarbonate of Soda.
3	Packets Oats.
6	Packets Semolina.
101	Packets Cheese.
1	Packet Currants.
7	Packet Cake Mixture.
24	Packets Coconut.
65	Tubs Cheese Spread.

1	Drum Custard Powder.
1	Dutch Cheese.
3 lbs.	Sliced Ham.
17	Swiss Rolls.
9	Pork Pies.
8	Steak Pies.

Ice-Cream.

During the year three new registrations were made for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream. One registration was cancelled, leaving a total of 23 premises registered for this purpose.

Milk and Dairies.

The following licences were issued during 1957:-

Distributors licences for Pasteurised Milk.	7
Distributors licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.	2

The registered dairies in the Borough were all visited on several occasions and found to be satisfactory.

Slaughter of Animals.

During the year the licences were renewed for the two private slaughterhouses and seven licences were issued under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1954.

The following Carcasses and offal were inspected:-

	1958.	1957.	1956.	1955.
Cattle	226	227	215	183
Calves	33	19	11	5
Sheep and Lambs	479	510	546	269
Pigs	382	411	269	162

For details of condemnations see Appendix 1.

6. FACTORIES.

During the year 27 visits were paid to registered factories, of which there are 34. No unsatisfactory conditions were found. One Outworker was notified, engaged in the alteration of wearing apparel.

7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1957.

Whooping Cough.	6
Scarlet Fever.	2
Measles.	30
Dysentery.	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	1
Pneumonia.	1
	56

The total number of notifications increased in 1958. The most startling at first glance is the increase in tuberculosis notifications. All but one of these occurred in St. Lawrence's Hospital. Three were of the nursing staff and the remainder were patients. The findings were largely the result of a more thorough search by the Mass Radiography Unit, which visited the Hospital late in the year. All the dysentery notified also occurred in the hospital, in a single outbreak.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the schools again, but no significant findings were reported. Tuberculin testing and B.C.G. Vaccination of school children in their fourteenth year was undertaken, a good response having been obtained.

Immunisation against poliomyelitis continued at an increased rate, more material having been available. By the end of the year virtually all persons registered had completed a course of three inoculations.

Appendix A.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned In Whole or In art.

	Cattle Excludin Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed(if known)	226	Nil	33	479	382	Nil
Number Inspected	226	Nil	33	479	382	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole Carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	7	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than iberculosis and cysticeri	0.44	Nil	Nil	1.46	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole Carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	17	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4.45	Nil
Cysticercosis.						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil